



Newsletter



Fall 2004

Commander's Corner:

We've started a new training year in October and with it we are taking the opportunity to further ensure our Soldiers and their families are prepared for mobilization. The Soldier Readiness Check scheduled for October is the unit's yearly opportunity to update our Soldiers status. This concerns their housing, family members, health, uniform and equipment readiness. Be prepared with the information regarding your immediate family members SSN, birth date, email addresses, mailing addresses, work and phone numbers. Mortgage and marriage or divorce certificates will also be needed. Collecting this information now rather than when mobilized gives you the opportunity to provide complete information to ensure you receive the support due you and your family during mobilization.

Our family readiness group is in need of volunteers. The family readiness group is the lifeline between the unit and deployed service members' families. It stays in touch with the families, answer questions concerning medical care benefits, provides advice on unit (FRG) pay issues, and assists families with gaining other support from the military. The family readiness group also carries a primary responsibility for our family day activities the games, food, music,

and raffle gifts are all a result of the hard work the FRG puts into these programs. We welcome all family members to our family day functions. The more they know about your military job and unit the more they will understand your job during mobilization. If you, a family member, or member of a volunteer group would like additional information, please contact CPT Provinsal.

We will be focusing on the METL Defend Assigned Area during November with a lanes training exercise. This exercise will involve planning, coordinating, and conducting defense techniques and tactics. This type of training is something we intend to incorporate into our training schedules semi-annually. We believe it will train and reinforce our warrior skills. As these skills progress, we will incorporate more detailed scenarios once our basic skills are developed.

The time to prepare for mobilization is now do your planning and preparation prior to drills, focus on training while at IDT, and give your feedback afterwards.

All input is considered as good.

We look forward to training with you this year. Keep safe and we'll see you at drill.

MAJ Jones
994th Commander

Safety is Everyone's Mission!

MAJ Jacoby



As Unit Safety Officer, I challenge each and every soldier in the 994th to maintain their focus on safety during drill weekends. Non-battle injuries and illness have rendered more soldiers combat ineffective than combat losses in each of our nation's wars of the last 150 years. The best trained force in the world will be unsuccessful if only 75% of the personnel are available for duty due to injury or illness. Safety is an individual responsibility, not just a

responsibility of the officers and NCOs. Regardless of your rank, you have a responsibility and a duty to report safety risks that you observe to your chain of command. If it is a simple item that can be corrected with the assets you have on hand, fix the problem immediately. But don't stop there - report the risk, and your corrective action, up the chain. If the risk is there in your squad, it is very likely that others are facing the same risk. Make sure your NCO or other immediate supervisor is aware of the problem and the fix, so that we can eliminate the risk for everyone in the unit.

During the October drill, I plan to have a Small Unit Risk Management Booklet available for the OICs and NCOs of each VSS. These booklets are a concise source of information that can help decrease the risks we face as we train. Those who wish to find more information on unit safety can visit the Army Safety Center on the web through their AKO account at <https://safety.army.mil/home.html>

COL Baumwart

Having just returned from a course at Ft. McCoy with 32 other commanders, I've come back with a sense of tremendous challenge. The Reserves are being challenged now more than ever in the past, and these challenges, and deployments, are not going to stop in the foreseeable future. However, there are tools in place to help us meet those challenges. The tools to which I refer are information (including AKO, other military websites and information networking) and training. We are already seeing these tools put into practice in our units. More and more we are relying on the information superhighway, including email and the world wide web, to disseminate information to our soldiers, communicate with our families and conduct online schooling and administrative tasks. Our soldiers are being required to become increasingly computer-literate and to develop new management skills on a daily basis to meet our operational and training

requirements. This is in addition to our more traditional combat training, which we still must strive to maintain. The commanders of the 994th and the 988th have taken the lead in both quality and quantity of meaningful warrior task training, which helps our soldiers meet and fulfill mission requirements in any theater.

Family readiness is also a tool, one that helps families to hold together during deployments and separations. Having seen its effectiveness during recent deployments, I would encourage all soldiers and their families to use this program to prepare for and work through the deployments of our personnel. In addition, I would ask for everyone's support, patience and prayers for our soldiers going to fight the war on terrorism.

Send Packages to 988th Soldiers

The United States Postal Service is offering free packing materials to spouses and families of military members who are deployed overseas. To take advantage of this service call: 1-800-610-8734 and press 1 (for English and then 3 for an operator) and they will send you free boxes, packing materials, tape and mailing labels. These products are to be used to mail care packages to service members.

You can also access this information by going on the internet:
<http://supplies.usps.gov> (no www.)

You can order every item you'll need except for the Priority Tape. You have to call the 800 number above to receive tape. Some of the items you can get on-line are:

- Box 7 12x12x8 and/or
- Box 4 7x7x6
- 106A - Labels
- Form 2976A - Customs Form
- Form 2976E - Envelope for Customs Form

**Golden Corral's Fourth Annual
2004 Military Appreciation Monday
Free dinner to our nation's military, past and present
To show our thanks
Monday Night November 15, 2004 from 5-9PM**

Veterans' Day honors our military personnel, past and present, for their willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. All 400+ Golden Corral restaurants spanning 39 states join together once again to offer these patriots a Free "Thank-you" Dinner Buffet on Monday Night November 15th from 5-9PM.

The offer is based on the honor system, no ID required; members of U.S. Reserves and National Guard are included in this special recognition offer.

Once again the Disabled American Veterans Organization with 2.3 million disabled veterans, their families and survivors, will have members in the restaurants to distribute literature, sign up new members and volunteers, and accept donations in support of the DAV.

An estimated 252,000 veterans attended last year helping this event raise over \$241,000 for the DAV.

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